

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE SOUTHEAST ASIA FIELD

Thanksgiving greetings from Bangkok!

Southeast Asia has finally released its Covid restrictions, and travel is open in most areas! So, for the last two months, I have started to revisit mission fields that were inaccessible for the last three years. Even though technology allows virtual meetings, the joy of gathering, praying, and sharing with people face-to-face is beyond words. Below you will find excerpts and images recapping important recent events. Please take time to look at the pictures and pray for these ministries.



1. Southeast Asia Field Leadership Team Meeting (Sep'22, Bangkok)

The SE Asia leadership team meeting was held in Bangkok to prepare for 2022-23. As I took on the responsibility of the SEA Field, the Lord gave me a vision to form a ministry team so that our field could work together more effectively. Seventeen missionaries and some local leaders spread out over five countries and eight districts were organized into four sub-teams (pioneer team, district development team, resource team and Chapman International College team). A leader was appointed to each team. Since each sub-team meets regularly and reports twice a year, we were able to use this time to set the direction and plan for the SE Asia mission. This leadership meeting was a

meaningful time as we close the fiscal year and plan for the ministry in 2022-23. During the meeting, we had time to revisit our goals for 2025. Since they were set before Covid, we thought we would need to revise the goals, but surprisingly, God has inspired us to keep going with the current plan. Goals by 2025:

- 10 Districts
- 13 New Areas
- 500 Churches (including home churches)
- 1,000 Disciples
- 15,000 Members

Please pray with us that the Lord will guide and reveal His amazing work through the next three years of ministry.

2. Pastors' Conference Myanmar Central District (Sep'22, Mandalay Myanmar)

Central District, located in Mandalay, Myanmar, is the youngest district in Southeast Asia. Ever since their first district assembly (in 2020), they have had three difficult years due to Covid. This Pastor' Conference was an invaluable time to pray together and set the direction for future ministry.

It was made even more special with the presence of Mark & Jazz Eugenio, the new Chancellor of Chapman International College (CIC), and John Mafinga, the newly appointed National Director of CIC Myanmar this year.



On this trip, I had two companions: Pastor Peka, who is the District Superintendent of Northwest District, and Pastor Adam of Yangon First Church. Both met and encouraged the disciples who were locally trained during Covid time, and shared their vision for the future mission to Burmese people.



Also, Pastora Zeli (Pastor Adams' wife), a licensed pastor of the Central District, was appointed as the Women's Clergy coordinator of Central District. She was able to use this time to train women clergy in Central District. It cannot be overstated how the pioneer churches of Central District have been established and developed through the dedication and efforts of these women leaders. Pastor Solomon (on the right in the picture below), who trained them and planted three churches, shared a vision to lead the Burmese mission in Mandalay by

educating these women leaders in the future. Please pray with us that the beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will the future be (Job 8:7).

3. District Advisory Board (DAB) Meeting and Discipleship Training in Northern Myanmar District (Sep'22)

After the Central District meeting was done, I went straight to Myitkyina to attend the Myanmar Northern DAB meeting and discipleship training. This important board meeting helped resolve conflicts among the district leaders and worked to resolve a land issue for the Bible College. Pastor Peka,



Northwest District DS and a chairman of the National board, accompanied me to help with communication. Thankfully, we were able to find a way to resolve some misunderstandings and tensions among them, and clear up the land issue for the Bible College as well. This is only possible through the work of God. After these meetings, we held the very first Nazarene Disciple International (NDI) training in Myanmar, and thirteen disciples attended. Since the political situation in Myanmar is not yet stable, only a small group of youths could participate. Yet, we believe this is the first step of nurturing 1,000 Christlike disciples in the future. Please pray for the future discipleship trainings that will take place in the 5 countries, 8 districts, and 13 pioneer areas in SE Asia.

4. Pastor & Family Conference Northern Thailand District (Oct'22 Chiang Mai, Thailand)

The pastors (and their families) of Northern Thailand had a great time gathering and sharing about their ministry & life together after a long time. The Northern Thailand District has a total of eighteen churches. DS Simon, who was elected as DS when Covid started, has been taking care of eighteen churches and developing the district with the pastors, even during this difficult time. After attending a recent training for all new DSs on the Asia-Pacific region, he reflected on the lack of Nazarene identity in Northern Thailand. So, we decided to have the



theme of this conference be “Identity of the Nazarenes.” This conference was special for me personally in that I could listen to the heart of the pastors of Northern Thailand and understand their lives and churches a little more. We are praying that we can meet with them more often, share ministry vision regularly, and understand more about Lahu churches and their culture.

5. Asia Pacific Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI), Annual Meeting (October 12-16, 2022, Korea)



The annual meeting of NDI, which strives to raise “Christlike disciples” in six fields in Asia-Pacific region, was held in Korea. Pastor Eun-Yup Kim, the regional NDI coordinator, introduced the “Journey of Grace,” a new discipleship training course that our denomination started to use. We



worked together to ensure effective discipleship training in Asia-Pacific region in the future. In Southeast Asia, a new missionary named Charity Shonamon is going to lead this ministry in the future. Until she gets familiar with the job, I will help and work with her for the next one to two years. This year’s discipleship goal in Southeast Asia is to teach and apply “Journey of Grace” principles in our local churches. Please pray that we will have growing number of disciples who have the strong passion for Christ.

6. Asia-Pacific Field Strategy Coordinator (FSC) Annual Meeting (January 12-16, Bali, Indonesia)

In Bali, Indonesia, six Field Strategy Coordinators and their spouses from Asia-Pacific region gathered and had a great time of sharing about our lives and ministries. Most of the FSCs were appointed around Covid time, so it was the first time that a face-to-face meeting like this was possible. Also, we realized that our FSCs are from many different countries. We are really becoming a multi-cultural team! Please pray that these leaders will keep being sensitive in listening and following the leadership of our Lord.





*S.E. Asia Field Report
by Bill Kwon*

7. Asia-Pacific Regional Leaders Meeting and District Advisory Association Annual Meeting (Jan'22, Bali, Indonesia)

Following the Asia-Pacific FSC Annual Meeting, the Asia-Pacific Regional Leaders Meeting and the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Annual Meeting were held in Bali. I attended on behalf of the Southeast Asia field. This face-to-face meeting, which didn't happen for the last two years, was a meaningful time of reconnection. It was my first time to attend the RAC meeting, and I felt honored to serve our churches with

this team. May God continue to bless the churches in Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

It just so happened that the Asia-Pacific NDI meeting was scheduled right after Korean Thanksgiving, so Mill planned to accompany me to Korea. We realized this was our first time to celebrate Korean Thanksgiving with our families in Korea in twenty-four years! And even more thankfully, we could visit the graveyard of my father, who passed away a year ago. Together with my mother and sister's family, we gathered for the first memorial service. Our visit was very special to my mother, who sent her husband away to the Lord just last year and is still learning to live alone. Another big joy was that we could meet up with our older kids. Along with our daughter Andrea who is working in Korea, we visited our son Minki who is serving in the military. We are so thankful and proud of these kids. Andrea got a regular job after working as an intern for a year, and Minki not only adjusted to the military life, but actually loves the life of tight routine and structure! We just confess every blessing is through the grace of God.

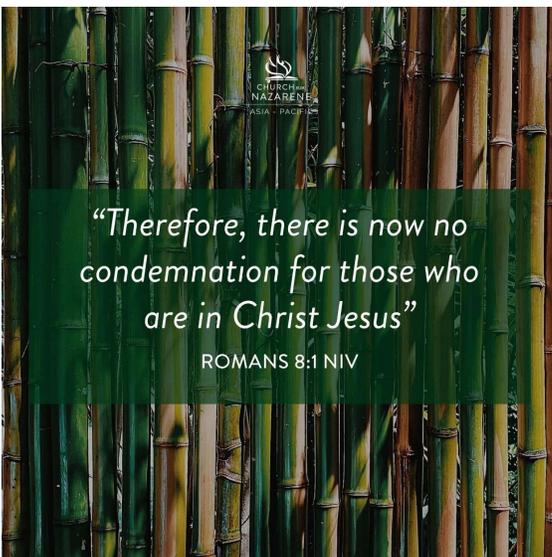


Bill & Mill Kwon

Bangkok, November 2022

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“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”

ROMANS 8:1 NIV

